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NFAC #6660-80

6 October 1980

22

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Briefing of Governor Reagan

1. On 4 October Governor Reagan was briefed on the Middle East from 1100 to 1320 in Middleburg, Virginia. Present with Governor Reagan were Ambassador Bush, Campaign Director William Casey, Chief of Staff Ed Meese, and National Security Adviser Richard Allen.

2. The briefing was given by the DCI, Robert Ames, NIO for the Near East and South Asia, and the undersigned. The DCI covered the petroleum aspects of the Middle East situation and the wars between Iran and Iraq and in Afghanistan. Ames covered the internal situations in Saudi Arabia and Iran, and I covered the impact of the Iran-Iraq war on the area as a whole and the Soviet role. My notes are attached.

3. The briefing went very well indeed. There were a number of questions of all sorts from all those present. The questions which approached policy concerns were as follows:

- Given the European stake in the Gulf, would it not be possible to put together some sort of multilateral force to defend our joint interests? The DCI replied that there were friendly naval forces in the area and diplomatic efforts were under way to turn this into a multilateral effort, but the capabilities of any of the participants to move other than naval forces to the region were quite low.

- Are we engaged in supplying arms to the Afghan insurgents? The DCI did not directly reply but it was clear to all

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present that this was a very sensitive matter in US policy and that indeed the US was engaged in supporting the insurgents through Pakistan.

4. I obtained signed security oaths from Casey and Meese, and informed Allen that Bruce Clarke should be his contact while I was out of the country. I gave him Clarke's office phone number.

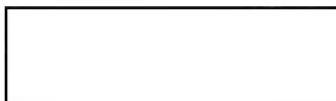


Richard Lehman
Chairman
National Intelligence Council

Attachments

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